1966, April 23/24 (also April 12, but this one is doubtful) MASS. NICAP-RF

Radiation

5/5/66

A CLOSE UFO ENCOUNTER IN DORCHESTER - APRIL 23-24, 1966

INTRODUCTION

For the second time in eleven days persons in the Dorchester section of Boston reported seeing a UFO maneuvering at close range near rooftop level. There were similarities between the two incidents--domed flying object with lights around the bottom, bobbing flight, and a simultaneous power blackout. However, the poor reliability of the witnesses in the April 12 sighting decreased the value of that case considerably, according to the NICAP Massachusetts Subcommittee members conducting the investigation. The case will be summarized later in this report.

The second Dorchester incident is more credible even though of a more sensational nature. It involves two separate sightings of the same object (made approximately 5½ hours apart) by a total of at least six witnesses. The observations were made at extremely close range. In the first encounter the UFO, according to the witnesses, passed between apartment buildings below rooftop level and hovered before moving away. It emitted a humming sound. In the second encounter the object allegedly hovered just outside a child's bedroom window and then shook the room with a thudding sound, causing the house lights to go out. At about this time a power failure occurred in Dorchester. The case resembled somewhat the UFO that descended over a parking lot between apartment houses in Lynn (see my report "A Near-landing at Lynn, Mass. - June 15, 1964"). That neighborhood was also in a thickly settled area of the city.

The Dorchester sightings are part of a global UFO sighting wave that has continued almost without interruption since early 1965 (or even before). The "flap" has been characterized by low-level flights of UFOs and landings of increasingly long duration. March and April of this year have seen a spectacular upsurge of sighting reports on both a local and global scale.

THE SIGHTINGS

On April 23, 1966, about 10:30 or 10:45 p.m.(EST), Mrs. Jeanne Kalnicki of 1284 Dorchester Avenue, Boston (Dorchester section), Massachusetts, was listening to the Steve Fredericks "talk" show on WMEX when a woman phoned the program to report a strange flying object moving over Dorchester Avenue. Upon hearing this, Mrs. Kalnicki and two of her children, Judy, 11, and Robin,9, went to the front bedroom of the third-floor apartment and looked west across Dorchester Avenue, which runs north and south. They were all amazed to see the UFO at a low altitude over Ernie's Auto Repair directly across the street.

Although Mrs. Kalnicki said she could not see the main body of the object, she could see red lights around it that blinked on and off. A bubble-like dome was clearly visible above the lights, and on top of it was a bright yellowish light. When this light flashed on, the red lights flashed off. This alternating sequence was repeated over and over again.

As the UFO moved south in an up-and-down bobbing motion and stopped over a sign atop the Osterbilt Company, the three witnesses ran from the bedroom to the windows in the dining room. Here they watched as the object headed east across Dorchester Avenue and passed between their apartment building and the one next door. It traveled at their level past the windows, moving slowly on its peculiar bobbing course and emitting a low, vibratory hum as it went. Near the end of the corridor between the houses, it stopped and hovered for an estimated two or three minutes. Mrs. Kalnicki said she could see the sky through the UFO's bubble-dome. She noticed that when the bright light on top went off, the dome seemed to glow from within. After hovering, the object bobbed off toward the ocean to the east and disappeared out of view behind houses in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Kalnicki and the children went into the front bedroom to discuss excitedly what they had seen. David, 17, who had been outdoors with their dog, appeared on the scene. When he heard what happened, he called the Boston newspapers to see if others had reported the UFO. He discovered that many persons in the Boston area and in eastern Massachusetts had phoned in reports of UFOs, but he was told many of these sightings were of the advertising plane flying that evening. The family was still upset and too frightened to go to bed so everyone stayed up most of the night.

About 5 a.m. (EDT--the clocks changed to daylight time at 2 a.m. April 24) Judy was lying awake in her bed. Robin was already asleep in her own bed between Judy's bed and the window which faced south over the corridor between apartment houses. Suddenly Judy saw a flashing light that fell through the venetian blinds onto her bed. She became frightened and called softly for her mother. But gradually curiosity overcame her fear. She walked over to her sister's bed, looked between the blinds, and saw an object hovering very close to the window. The light emanated from a bright yellow circular light on top of a bubble-dome that appeared at eye level. Judy said she could have reached out and touched the UFO if the window had been open. She could look down on a silvery-gray disc-like shape below the dome which was encircled by red lights on little spokes or shafts. As in the earlier sighting, the lights followed an alternating pattern: when the yellow light went off, the dome glow came on, and then the red lights appeared. The strange object, which the girl estimated was the size of her brother's car (1955 Lincoln), gave off a humming sound and some weird, whirring, mechanical noises.

According to Judy, the UFO would hover then bob back and forth in front of the window. This was too much for the little

girl, and she screamed with fright. At that moment the object moved more rapidly back and forth and then there was a thuddung sound or bang which rattled the windows and rocked the bed. All the lights in the house went out.

Jüdy dashed out into the hall where she was joined by her mother and David. The dog, a German shepherd, appeared to be very upset, whining and scratching at the door to the back porch. Mrs. Mary Burdick and Helen Litchfield came up from downstairs, and all five persons ran out to the back porch to see if they could see the UFO. Looking to the north toward downtown Boston, they spotted a glowing, elongated object with red lights on one end in the sky. David said it appeared to be a few miles distant and seemed to advance and recede as they watched it. He was not sure whether it was the same object seen earlier, but he felt certain it was not a helicopter or conventional aircraft. David estimated they watched the object for about twelve minutes.

David phoned the police (Station No. 11 in Dorchester), and shortly four patrolmen showed up at the apartment. Mrs. Kalnicki said the officers were very skeptical about the whole thing, believing Judy merely had a nightmare. They said the station checked with Logan Airport personnel who theorized the flashing light seen by the girl was lightning since it was raining. (The witnesses confirmed to me that it was raining and misty during their sightings, but there was no thunderstorm activity.)

Soon after the police arrived, Richard Fallon, a photographer for the Boston Globe, pulled up in his car. He happened to be at the police station when David's call came in. A Boston Record-American photographer, Roland Oxlon, received word of the incident through his city desk and arrived at the Kalnicki place about 5:30 or 6. Oxlon found the children still hysterical and crying (as his picture in the paper demonstrates). Both Fallon and Oxlon looked up at Jüdy's third-floor window to check for any possible damage caused by the UFO. They could glimpse two scrape marks below the window which they attributed to a ladder placed on the recently painted wall of the house. Nō photographs of the marks were taken, and no inspection of them was made.

The house lights came back on after no more than four minutes, according to David. His mother thought it was a longer time interval. He later checked with the Boston Edison Company and was told a power failure did occur in Dorchester at 4:57 a.m., about the time of the second UFO sighting. Further, the Edison spokesman said the blackout lasted 25 minutes and was traced to a burned cable on East Street, just diagonally across Dorchester Avenue from the Kalnicki apartment. The UFO witnesses watched workmen repair the cable.

THE INVESTIGATION

I first learned of the Kalnicki sightings on WEEI's "Sunday Morning Party Line" at 10 a.m. the same morning (April 24). Howard Nelson conducted a phone interview over the air with Mrs. Kalnicki

and Judy. Later that day the Record-American's Monday morning edition appeared on the stands with a story headlined "Flying Saucer 'Rocked My Bed' Hub Girl Cries." A photograph by Roland Oxland showed Judy in her bathrobe crying as she pointed toward the window.

On the evening of the 25th I interviewed Mrs. Kalnicki, Judy, and David. I had them show me the route through the apartment they followed during both sightings. All three witnesses drew sketches of what they saw.

The next day, on the 26th, I spoke to Richard Fallon, the Globe photographer, and to Sam Carchidi, District Manager, Boston Edison Company. Carchidi checked his records on the Sunday power failure and reported back to me on the 27th, confirming David's information. A power interruption, affecting some 2500 homes, occurred at 4:57 a.m.(EDT). The trouble was traced to Pole No. 2 on East Street (about a block northwest of the Kalnicki apartment); two cables on the pole burned open, a not uncommon occurrence which probably was caused by a breakdown in the insulation. Power was partially restored after 25 minutes and fully restored after 124 minutes. Carchidi was familiar with the UFO incident but was convinced the cable break had an ordinary explanation.

On the evening of the 26th Ernest Reid, member of the NICAP Massachusetts Subcommittee, scanned Judy's window sill with a Geiger counter (CDV-700) and found no unusual radiation except for one particle on the sill. It registered a strong reading of .025 milliroentgens per hour. Two vials, one containing the particle and the other normal dust from the sill, were subsequently delivered to another subcommittee member, Peter Poulsen, for analysis (Poulsen is a graduate student in radiation physics). Reid, by the way, stood below the girl's window and noticed no unusual marks on that side of the house.

On the 28th I talked to Roland Oxlon, Record-American photographer, and to the owner of Mrs. Kalnicki's apartment building. James O'Brien of Randolph, the owner, was upset by NICAP's radiation finding and the effect this would have upon the tenants in the building. I attempted to reassure him that the house was not "radioactive" and what little radiation if any might be present on the window sill would shortly disappear.

Raymond Fowler, chairman of the NICAP Massachusetts Subcommittee, furnished me with the East Coast advertising plane flight schedule for April 23. The plane, trailing its brightly lighted sign, is a frequent source of local "saucer" sightings. It was flying that night from about 8:00 to 10:30 and did cause numerous strange-object reports all along its path. Although it passed over Dorchester around 9:00, it landed at Danvers about 10:30--approximately the time the first Kalnicki sighting occurred. Danvers is nearly 20 miles north of Dorchester. Thus, the ad plane can be completely ruled out.

THE APRIL 12 SIGHTING IN DORCHESTER

The witnesses involved in this case--the eight who gave their names--were all teenagers, ages 13-18, living or visiting at 24 Thane Street, Dorchester. There were no adult witnesses so far as could be determined. The youths were a brother and sister, cousin, and friends.

According to news accounts, the sighting began about 7:45 p.m.(EST) when Pearl Moses, 15, and Annie O'Neil, 14, spotted the UFO hovering about ten feet above the four-story Oliver Wendell Holmes grammar school. They ran inside Pearl's house and alerted Pearl's brother, Robert, 18, her cousin, John Trombler, 18, and a friend, Robert McCambly, 15.

The object was described as oval-shaped with a dome on top and lights around the bottom that changed from red to white to green. A bright white light shone down from underneath. The UFO, about the size of a helicopter, circled the school, moving "like a roller coaster, up and down," according to Pearl, and then sped out of sight. But shortly it returned. The observation allegedly lasted a total of about 20 minutes.

In addition to the above witnesses, Mark Bell, 16, said he saw the object from his second-floor apartment at the same address. His brother, Wayne, 14, and a third-floor friend, Michael Welsh, 13, also said they watched it as they returned from the YMCA. About a dozen children playing in the street ran away when the UFO was sighted.

As in the April 24 case, a power failure occurred during the sighting at about 7:55. The area affected was in nearby Roxbury about a mile north of Thane Street. According to one news report, power was out for more than 30 minutes. Another story said power was fully restored by 10:02 p.m. The cause of the interruption was not determined.

The similarities between the Thane Street and Dorchester Avenue incidents are obvious (the former site is about a mile southwest of the latter one). Moreover, NICAP subcommittee chairman Fowler reported investigating an excellent sighting on April 22 at Beverly, Massachusetts, involving a similar object with rotating colored lights that hovered over a school. This time there were adult witnesses including policemen.

The NICAP Subcommittee found the teenagers unreliable in the Thane Street case, especially Pearl Moses, who was quoted widely in the news stories. She appeared to be a science-fiction buff and was somewhat knowledgeable on the UFO subject. She, like the other youths, seemed to enjoy the attention and publicity. It is unfortunate there were no adult observers because in the light of the similar sightings above, it is entirely possible a UFO really was seen but the accounts became garbled or exaggerated.

CONCLUSIONS

A sensational UFO story such as the Kalnicki case requires careful interpretation. After questioning the family, I believe it is highly probable the events happened as described. Judy, an honor student at school, insisted she was awake when her own terrifying experience took place, that it was not a dream. If it were a hoax, she was a very good actress to cry as convincingly as she did. Police officers and news photographers found the whole family upset when they arrived. I questioned Judy very closely. I don't think someone perpetrating a hoax could make a child stick to such a detailed story under repeated interrogations over such a long period. Her account impressed me to say the least. In addition, the UFO's reported shape, hovering and bobbing flight, humming sound, and the effects on house lights and on the dog are characteristic features in many UFO sightings.

The Dorchester power failure that happened during the 5 a.m. sighting might be dismissed as coincidence except for the fact that a similar failure occurred during the April 12 sighting. Although a conventional explanation was suggested by Boston Edison for the April 24 blackout, I believe a UFO correlation is a definite probability here not only because the time of the power failure coincided closely with the UFO sighting but also because the trouble was traced to a cable breakdown quite near the Kalnicki apartment. This all seems beyond the realm of ordinary coincidence to me. However, David estimated their house lights were out no more than four minutes while the broader power interruption was not even partially corrected for 25 minutes. Mrs. Kalnicki disputed her son's estimate and thought the lights were out for a longer period (see addendum below).

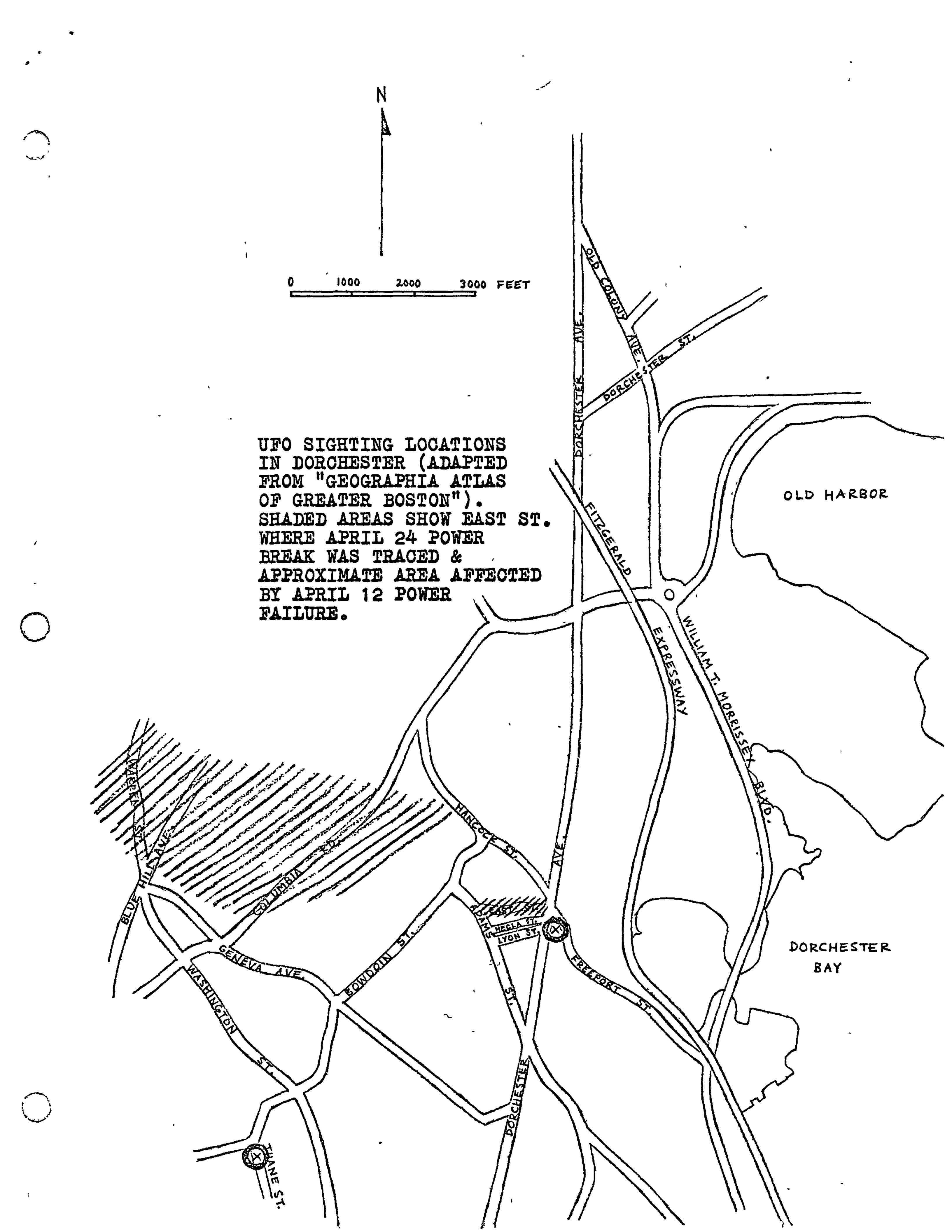
Regarding the scrape marks on the house, I accept the photographers' opinion that they were probably ladder marks. As for the radiation readings, the only unusual count was apparently emitted by a single particle on the window sill and, pending any exceptional results from the analysis, there is very little here to prove a UFO connection.

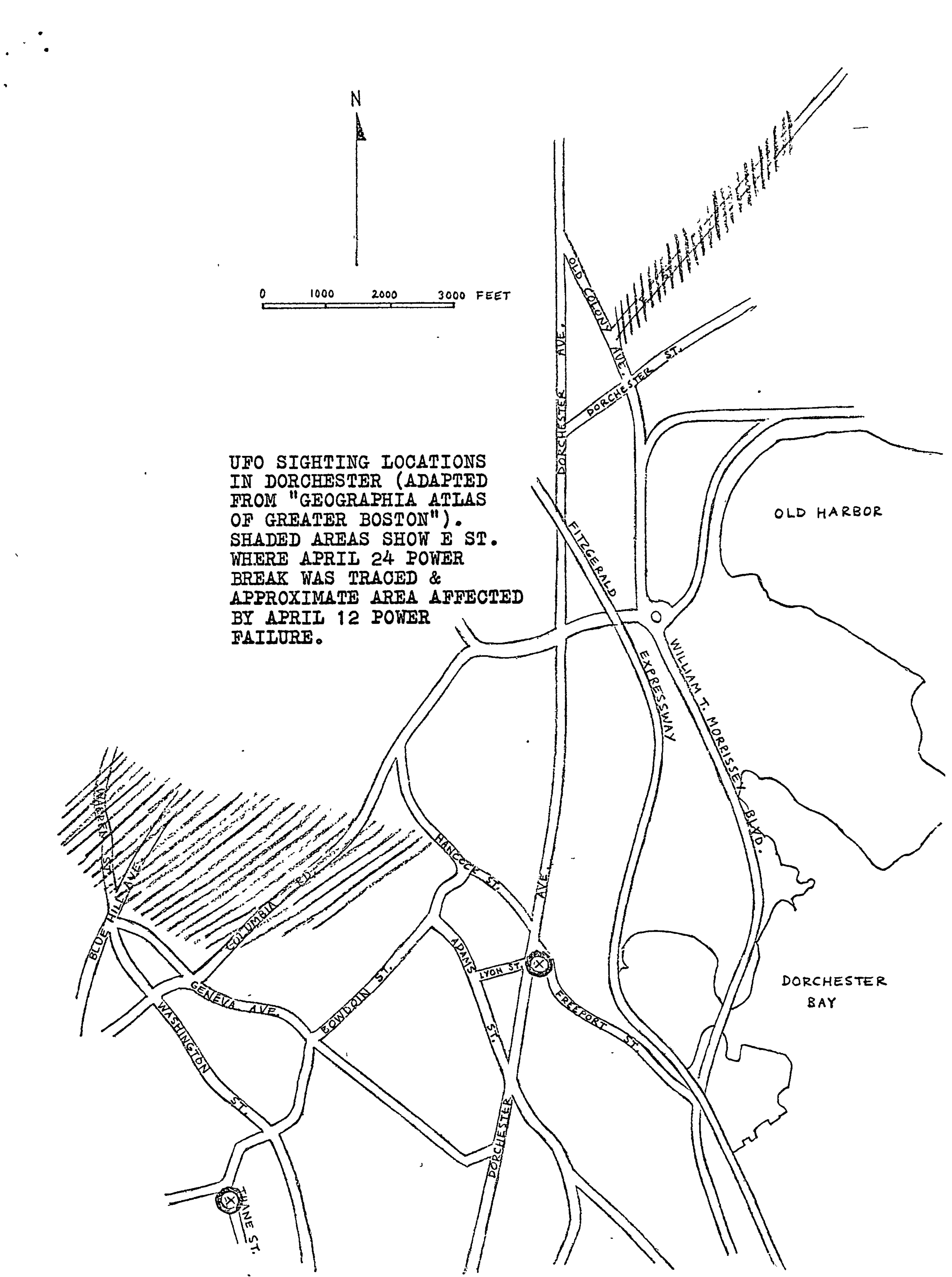
Finally, if we are to believe Mrs. Kalnicki's story, an unidentified woman phoned in the first sighting of the object over Dorchester Avenue. Her report provided independent confirmation of the UFO. Also, for what it is worth, Mrs. Kalnicki said another little girl living in the neighborhood, Alice Brown, claimed the same UFO maneuvered outside her window one night during the week before Judy's encounter. The girl's mother did not believe Alice's story until Judy's experience was publicized. An investigation of Alice's story as well as a house-to-house check in the neighborhood for other witnesses would have been desirable.

Walter Webb
Walter N. Webb
NICAP Adviser
5/5/66

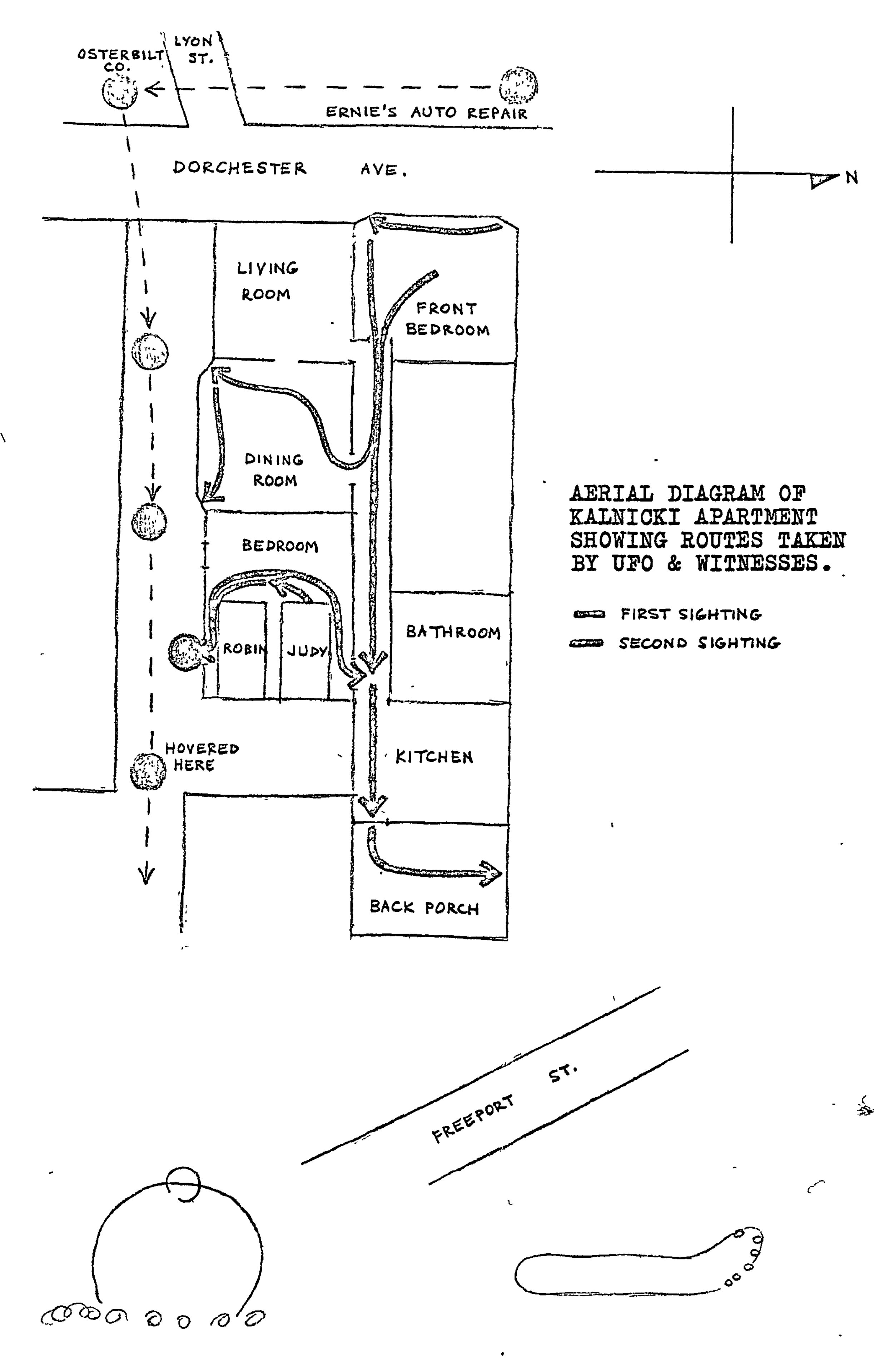
(ADDENDUM & SKETCHES NEXT PAGES)

ADDENDUM 5/16/66: Raymond Fowler of the NICAP subcommittee reported to me that in the past few months power lines have "vaporized" mysteriously in the Framingham area west of Boston. The source for this information is an employee of Boston Edison and is considered reliable. The employee said the cause of this problem is as yet unexplained, and nothing like this has happened in the past 50 years. It would be of interest to know the dates, times, and locations of these cable breaks in order to investigate the possibility of a UFO connection. The Edison informant works in the Framingham area.


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UFO SIGHTING LOCATIONS IN DORCHESTER (ADAPTED FROM "GEOGRAPHIA ATLAS OF GREATER BOSTON"). SHADED AREAS SHOW EAST ST. WHERE APRIL 24 POWER BREAK WAS TRACED & APPROXIMATE AREA AFFECTED BY APRIL 12 POWER FAILURE.
OLD COLONY AVE.
DORCHESTER AVE.
DORCHESTER ST.
OLD HARBOR
FITZGERALD
EXPRESSWAY
WILLIAM T. MORRISSEY BLVD.
HANCOCK ST.
AVE.
BLUE HILLS AVE.
COLUMBIA RD.
EAST
ADAMS
HECLA ST.
LYON ST.
FREEPORT ST.
DORCHESTER BAY
GENEVA AVE.
BOWDOIN ST.
WASHINGTON ST.
ST.
DORCHESTER
THANE ST.

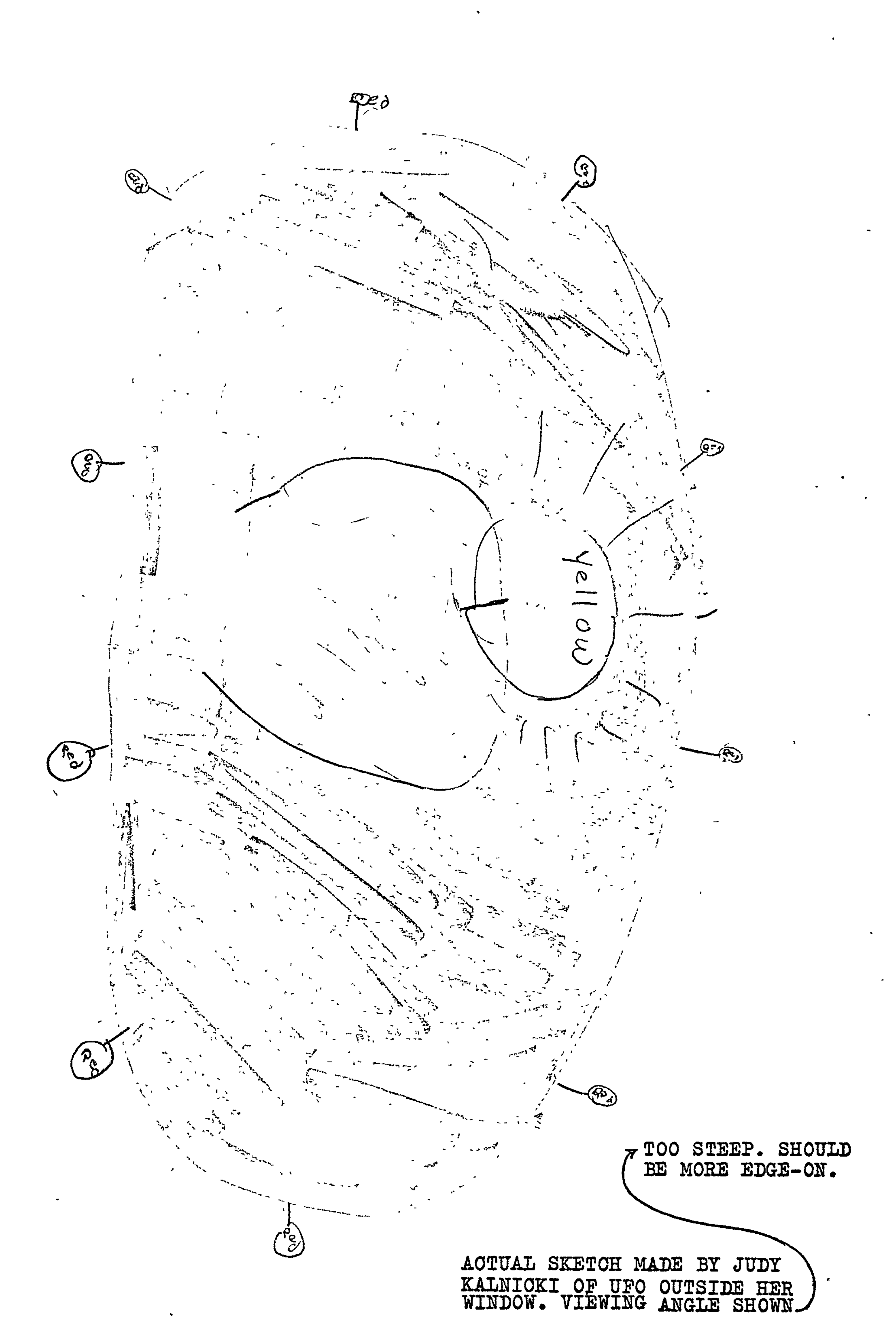


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UFO SEEN DURING FIRST SIGHTING. COPY OF MRS. KALNICKI'S SKETCH. DOME EXAGGERATED.

OBJECT SEEN DURING SECOND SIGHTING. COPY OF DAVID'S SKETCH.



TOO STEEP. SHOULD BE MORE EDGE-ON.

ACTUAL SKETCH MADE BY JUDY KALNICKI OF UFO OUTSIDE HER WINDOW. VIEWING ANGLE SHOWN



Frightened Judy Kalnicki, 11, Dorchester, Cries as She Describes the UFO She Saw From Bedroom Window
Record American Photo, Roland Oxton

Record American APRIL 25, 1966

Flying Saucer 'Rocked My Bed' Hub Girl Cries

RECEIVED MAY - 2 1966

By MARY X. SULLIVAN and TOM DOWNEY 4/24/66

An 11-year-old Dorchester girl was terrified by a UFO early Sunday morning which she said banged against the house and rocked her bed. Judy Kalnicki of 284 Dorchester ave, an honor student in the sixth grade at the Mather School, woke up screaming for her mother, Mrs Jean Kalnicki, who has six other children Then the youngster sat down and sketched the "flying oval"

TWO BLACKOUTS

The mysterious flying object was spotted twice by the Kalnicki family, and two blackouts of electric power occurred almost simultaneously in the Dorchester area Police also received calls that UFO's were spotted off Boston's Logan Airport, over South Boston and near Waltham's Waverly sq.

Shortly after 4 a. m. Judy was awakened and saw "this thing" outside her third-floor bedroom window

"It was so close I could almost touch it," Judy said. "It banged against the house as we watched it. I was sitting on my bed, and it rocked the bed back and forth Then the lights in the house went out."

BIG AS AUTO

Judy said the "thing" was oval in shape and "about the size of my brother's car a 1955 Lincoln"

"It had a bubble top that seemed to be round with red lights around the edge," Judy explained. "It seemed to be made partly of silvery gray metal with no doors

"I always used to say that there was no such thing as a flying saucer I thought those people who said they saw them were making it up Now that I saw one myself I never want to see one again"

Mrs Kalnicki said she had sighted the UFO shortly before midnight when it floated across Dorchester ave and hovered outside her apartment windows.

The mother said it had sort of a transparent bubble top that was illuminated with a yellow light and circular red blinking lights

RECORD AMERICAN, BOSTON, MON., APRIL 25, 1966 — 4

UFO Scares Hub Girl, 11, 'Rocked Bed'

4/24

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Frightened Judy Kalnicki, 11, Dorchester, Cries as She Describes the UFO She Saw From Bedroom Window

1966 APR. 24 MASS

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